GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011
DEPLETION OF GROUND WATER LEVEL
Naqvi Shri Zafar Ali

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the rapidly declining ground water level in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the average ground water level in different States, State-wise and UT-wise;

(d) whether schemes/projects have been initiated for the development and regulation of ground water including suitable legislations by the States in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 333 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.08.2011 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING DEPLETION OF GROUND WATER LEVEL ASKED BY SHRI ZAFAR ALI NAQVI:

(a)&(b) Ground water levels are declining in certain parts of the country which has indicated by analysis of data of ground water level monitored regularly (four times in a year) by Central Ground Water Board through a network of 15640 observation wells.

(b) Water level data collected during May, 2011 has shown that water levels in majority of observation wells range from 2 to 20 metres below ground level. The state wise details of depth to water level as measured during May, 2011 are given in Annexure I.

(d)to(e)'Water' is a State subject therefore, States are primarily responsible for undertaking various schemes/ projects for development of ground water. For enabling the States/ UTs to enact suitable ground water legislation, Ministry of Water Resources has circulated the Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water. So far as 11 States/Union Territories namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted ground water legislation.

The Government has also constituted Central Ground Water Authority, under Section 3(3) of Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, to regulate and control the ground water development and management in the country.

Government of Gujarat through a resolution vide reference No. GWR/1095/6/1.1/Ja-1 dated 19.9.2001 has constituted Gujarat Ground Water Authority under the administrative control of Narmada and Water Resources Authority for systematic administration of ground water management, its development, control and regulation.

Government of NCT, Delhi vide Order No. F8(348)/EA/Env/09 dated 31.3.2009 has notified all the districts of NCT, Delhi for regulation of ground water development.